

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JULY 7, 1848.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Downs made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of citizens of Rochester, New York, in behalf of the Tonawanda band of the Seneca Indians, report:

That a petition for the same object was presented to the last Congress, and after full investigation, with all the documents before them, the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate made an unfavorable report. Neither the Commissioner on Indian Affairs, nor the committee, can see any reason to change the opinion then given; and, therefore, referring to Senate document No. 156, of the 2d session of 29th Congress, and to the letter of the commissioner, of 5th July, 1848, for the reasons of their opinion, the committee recommend that the following resolution be adopted:

Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioners ought not to be granted.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Office Indian Affairs, July 5, 1848.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, enclosing a petition from citizens of Rochester, New York, in favor of releasing the Indians on the Tonawanda reservation in that State, from the obligations of the treaties of 1838 and 1842, with the "Six Nations," or Senecas, so that they may retain possession of that reservation; and you ask, in behalf of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, such information and suggestions as may be useful to it.

This subject has, on several occasions, been presented for the consideration of both the Senate and this department; and Senate document 156, of the last session of the last Congress, contains, it is believed, all the information that is material in relation to it, and exhibits the disposition made of it by the committee at that time. To that document I would, therefore, respectfully refer you, and also to a communication and accompanying documents

sent from this office on the 3d February, 1847, in answer to a similar call from the same committee, and which will, no doubt, be found on its files; copies of which will, however, be cheerfully furnished if you cannot readily find them.

The petition is herewith returned.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. MEDILL.

Hon. S. W. DOWNS,

Committee on Indian Affairs, Senate.

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Office Indian Affairs, July 5, 1848.

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